

ROCKFORD TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

Wednesday, October 13, 2010, 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mr. Fred Lierman at 6:02 PM.

Members Present

Mr. Fred Lierman, Chairman
Mr. Dock Ward
Mr. Thomas Okite
Mr. Ron Muzzarelli, Rockford Mass Transit District
Mr. Gregg Wilson, Transportation, School District 205
Lieutenant Dane Person, Rockford Police Department
Mr. Gary McIntyre, Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Mr. Jonah Katz, Planning Division, Community Development Department
Mr. Jeremy Carter, Public Works Department

Members Absent

Mr. George Zawislak, Vice Chairman
Mr. Leland Carlson
Alderman Linda McNeely, 13th Ward
Division Chief Matt Knott, Rockford Fire Department

Also Present

Ms. Connie Blaisdell, 8158 Royal Oaks Road, 61101
Mr. Michael Williams, 7633 Creek Bend, 61114
Mrs. Carey Williams, 7633 Creek Bend, 61114

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on September 8, 2010, were approved as submitted.

The Traffic Commission recommended the following items:

1. Request from Ms. Carla Cruse, 7692 Creek Bend 61114, 1st Ward, for No Parking Any Time on both sides of Bend Trail from Creek Bend to Bell School Road. (Mr. and Mrs. Williams discussed how existing parking is handled on Creek Bend. J. Carter discussed the recent extension of Bend Trail to Bell School Road. Commission discussed appropriate limits of No Parking. The Commission recommended establishing "No Parking Any Time" restriction on the west side of Bend Trail from Bell School Road to Creek Bend and on the east side of Bend Trail from Bell School Road to 100' south of Bell School Road. Motion by G. McIntyre, seconded by J. Carter. Voted 9-0)

2. Request from Mr. Jim Veitch, teacher at Roosevelt Alternative High School, 978 Haskell Ave, 61103 in the 7th Ward for mid-block pedestrian crosswalk in front of Roosevelt Alternative High School on Haskell Avenue. (Commission discussed the large amount of students crossing at mid-block throughout the day. The Commission recommended establishing mid-block pedestrian crossing across from north entrance of school on Haskell Avenue. Motion by T. Okite, seconded by R. Muzzarelli. Voted 9-0)
3. Request in the 1st Ward from City staff for Bell School Road to be considered a through street from Spring Brook Road north to Riverside Boulevard. (The Commission recommended establishing Bell School Road as a through street from Spring Brook Road to Riverside Boulevard. Motion by G. McIntyre, seconded by R. Muzzarelli. Voted 9-0)

The Traffic Commission recommended taking “No Action” on the following items:

1. Request from Mrs. Connie Blaisdell, 8158 Royal Oaks Rd., 61107 in the 1st Ward, for Stop Sign control at Royal Oaks Road and Castle Hill Drive. (Ms. Blaisdell discussed her concerns with intersection, and presented photos of a visibility issue at the intersection. Commission discussed low traffic volumes. Commission asked that vision triangle be enforced at corners of intersection. The Commission recommended No Action. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by D. Ward Voted 9-0)
2. Request in the 6th Ward from Ms. Dee Thompson, 3019 Kentucky Drive, 61108 to repeal the current existing stop control of Wills Avenue stopping for 8th Street and replace with all way stop at the intersection of 8th Street and Wills Avenue. (Commission discussed that warrants for all way stop were not met. J. Carter explained intent of request was to stop traffic leaving an industrial area and entering a residential area. The Commission recommended No Action. Motion by D. Person, seconded by D. Ward Voted 9-0)
3. Request from Alderman John Beck, 12th Ward, for 4-way Stop Sign control at Jonathan Avenue and North Church Street. (Commission discussed low traffic volumes. Commission recommended No Action. Motion by G. McIntyre, seconded by J. Katz Voted 9-0)

4. Request in the 3rd Ward from City staff for mid-block pedestrian crosswalk in the 200 Block of E. State Street. (Commission discussed existing pedestrian crossing in area and the pedestrian traffic generated by business within the block and the new local market on Water Street. F. Lierman discussed that people cross mid-block all week long and not just on Fridays during the local market. Commission discussed that proposed crosswalk area would function similar to intersection with alley as intersection legs. Discussion of whether local market would be in same location next year and not placing crosswalk that would affect traffic during winter when market was ending for year. J. Carter discussed gathering more data at non peak times. The Commission recommended No Action. Motion by R. Muzzarelli , seconded by D. Person Voted 9-0)
5. Request from Ms. Shirley Updike, 2804 Ridgeway Avenue, 61101, 7th Ward, for No Parking Any Time on the west side of Edgemont Street from Custer Avenue to Knight Avenue. (J. Carter discussed width of Edgemont Street and parking on both sides makes it difficult for emergency vehicles to pass. Commission discussed that cars parked along Edgemont Street during sports events at West Middle School. Discussion of sports events only happening for three months out of year. The Commission recommended No Action. Motion by G. McIntyre, seconded by D. Ward Voted 9-0)

Other items:

J. Carter addressed Traffic commission to discuss changes in how Traffic Commission requests would be handled and how traffic data would be collected. J. Carter explained that the City Traffic Division has been reduced and it has affected the division's ability to gather data as it had in the past. J. Carter explained that the City Traffic Division planned to start using its speed trailer and other volume counting devices to do volume counts for stop and yield sign request. J. Carter also explained that currently the City Traffic Division did turning movement counts that were labor intensive. Commission discussed that turning counts were not required and volume counts would provide information needed. J. Carter also discussed limiting number of staff counts to five per month. Commission discussed that very seldom is there more than five counts needed in a month. J. Carter stated that these changes should not affect the quality of service and that this was only a change in how and how much data is gathered.

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 PM. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by J. Katz.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held:
Wednesday, November 10, 2010, 6:00 PM.

Rockford City Hall
425 East State Street
2nd floor, Conference Room A

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Carter
Recording Secretary